

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-52 (Canceled).

53. (New) A hand-held portable electronic display device comprising:
an electronic display;
a memory electrically coupled with said display for storing information to be displayed on said display, said memory further capable of storing protected information in an encrypted format and for storing a first decryption code associated with said protected information;
circuitry coupled with said display and with said memory for reading said first decryption code from said memory; and
a connector capable of attaching a removable cover associated with said protected content to said display device, wherein said removable cover includes a tag containing a second decryption code associated with said protected information,
wherein said circuitry is further capable of:
detecting said second decryption code from said tag when said removable cover is attached to said display device,
comparing said first decryption code and said second decryption code, and
decrypting said protected information stored in said memory for enabling display of said protected information in an unencrypted format on said display if said first decryption code is compatible with said second decryption code.

54. (New) A hand-held portable electronic display device as claimed in claim 53, further comprising circuitry coupled with said display and with said memory capable of encrypting said protected information stored in said memory and clearing said protected information from said display if said cover is removed from said display.

55. (New) A hand-held portable electronic display device as claimed in claim 53, further comprising a receiver for wirelessly receiving into said memory said protected information in an encrypted format and said first decryption code.

56. (New) A hand-held portable electronic display device as claimed in claim 53, wherein said second decryption code is read from said tag through at least one of an inductive and a capacitive connection.

57. (New) A hand-held portable electronic display device as claimed in claim 53, wherein said removable cover further includes visual indicia corresponding to said protected content for providing an association between said cover and said protected content.

58. (New) A method for viewing protected information in a hand-held portable electronic display device comprising:

receiving protected information in an encrypted format and a first decryption code associated with said protected information;

storing said protected information and said first decryption code associated with said protected information in a memory;

detecting a tag carried by a removable cover associated with said protected information and reading a second decryption code from said tag if said removable cover is attached to said display device;

comparing said first decryption code with said second decryption code; and
decrypting said protected information stored in said memory and displaying said protected information in an unencrypted format on said hand-held portable electronic display device if said first decryption code is compatible with said second decryption code.

59. (New) A method as claimed in claim 58, further comprising encrypting said protected information stored in said memory and clearing said protected information from said device if said cover is removed from said device.

60. (New) A method as claimed in claim 58, wherein receiving the protected information and the first encryption code comprises wirelessly receiving the protected information and the first decryption code.

61. (New) An apparatus for covering a hand-held portable electronic display device comprising:

a cover;

a connector for removably attaching said cover to the display device; and

a tag containing an encryption code associated with protected information stored by the display device, wherein the encryption code of said tag is capable of being compared to an encryption code stored by the display device such that the protected information is accessible if said cover is mounted to the display device and the respective encryption codes match.

62. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 61, wherein said connector comprises an electrical connector for electrically connecting said cover and the display device.

63. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 61, wherein said tag comprises one of a capacitive and an inductive element.

64. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 61, wherein said tag comprises a web server.

65. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 61, wherein said cover comprises visual indicia corresponding to the protected content for providing an association between said cover and the protected content.